

SOME NEW FOOD PLANTS FOR AUSTRALIAN LEPIDOPTERA WITH LIFE HISTORY NOTES

By Murdoch De Baar

25 Irwin Terrace, Oxley, Queensland, 4075.

This paper records food plants and life history notes on butterflies and a hawk moth, in addition to those given by Common (1963), McCubbin (1971) and Common and Waterhouse (1972). The butterfly nomenclature follows that of Common and Waterhouse (1972).

HESPERIIDAE

Chaetocneme sp.

Croton insularis (Family Euphorbiaceae). Three empty pupal cases were found on this plant during Jan. 1976, at Brisbane, Queensland. In the absence of adults the species could not be identified.

Trapezites iacchus (F.)

Lomandra multiflora (Family Xanthorrhoeaceae). A series of larvae were collected on this *Lomandra* near Petrie, Queensland, and the adults emerged between 19 Feb. and 3 Apr. 1977 and also during Mar. 1978. Pupal durations for seven individuals ranged from 13 to 15 days. This butterfly was also reared from the same locality during Mar. 1978 on *Lomandra longifolia* which has been previously recorded as a host by Atkins (1975).

First instar larvae are green with a black head. Mature larvae are pale brown with faint longitudinal lines and a blackish head faintly blotched with pale brown, the head has a depression on the dorsal surface.

The pupa is brown with darker blotches, with the anterior end rounded, and the head with two slight bumps on its dorsal surface. The pupa of *T. iacchus* is less densely setose than that of *Trapezites eliena*.

Taractrocera ina Waterhouse

Brachiaria decumbens, *Paspalum conjugatum*, *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Paspalum urvillei* (Family Poaceae). One adult was reared on 16 Apr. 1976, at Brisbane on the introduced host, *B. decumbens*. Further larvae were collected during Mar. 1978 feeding on *P. conjugatum* at Maryborough, Queensland, and *P. urvillei* at Brisbane. Those feeding on *P. conjugatum* also accepted *P. dilatatum*. Adults emerged during Apr. 1978.

Ocybadistes walkeri sothis Waterhouse

Dianella sp. (Family Liliaceae). A larva was collected at Stanthorpe, Queensland, and after feeding for 5 days on this host, pupated on 15 Jan. 1977 and emerged on 23 Jan. 1977. As *Ocybadistes* and related genera are usually grass feeders, *Dianella* is an unusual food plant, which has also been recorded as a host for *Toxidia peron* (Atkins, 1975).

Suniana sunias nola (Waterhouse)

Panicum maximum, *Leersia hexandra* (Family Poaceae). A large series of larvae

was reared on the introduced *Panicum maximum*, collected during Mar. 1976 at Brisbane. Larvae of this species were also collected on 14 Mar. 1978 near Caboolture, Queensland, feeding on *Leersia hexandra*.

Arrhenes marnas affinis (Waterhouse and Lyell)

Leersia hexandra (Family Poaceae). A series of larvae was collected on this host growing in a swampy situation near Caboolture, Queensland, on 14 Mar. 1978.

Pupal duration for three larvae ranged from 8 to 9 days. Mature larvae are pale green with a pale brown head and an inverted v on the front of the head.

Telicota ancilla ancilla (Herrich-Schaffer)

Paspalum urvillei (Family Poaceae). A series of larvae was reared on this host during Feb. 1977 at Brisbane.

Parnara amalia (Semper)

Leersia hexandra (Family Poaceae). Larvae of this species were collected with *Arrhenes marnas affinis* near Caboolture, Queensland, 14 Mar. 1978.

PIERIDAE

Eurema hecabe phoebus (Butler)

Acacia rubida, *Acacia maidenii* (Family Mimosaceae). A large number of this butterfly was reared during Apr. 1977 at Brisbane, from larvae collected on these hosts cultivated in a garden. Juvenile bushes appeared to be the most susceptible to larval attack. *E. hecabe* has also been reared on several occasions from *Acacia maidenii* grown in Brisbane gardens (G. B. Monteith, pers. comm.). The *Eurema* larvae confine their feeding to the juvenile pinnate true leaves which are rather persistent in *A. maidenii*, a phyllodinous species.

Delias nysa nysa (F.)

Korthalsella opuntia a mistletoe (Family Loranthaceae) growing on *Geijera parviflora*. A larva and two pupae were taken on this host at Gunnedah, New South Wales. One adult emerged 3 May 1977. This food plant was recorded previously by Edwards (1963). I record my observation here confirming the record of Edwards.

NYMPHALIDAE

Euploea core corinna (W. S. Macleay)

Plumeria acutifolia "frangipani" (Family Apocynaceae). An immature larva was collected on 12 Mar. 1978 near Petrie, Queensland, feeding on the above plant. It fed for nine days, consuming a third of a leaf before dying.

Sankowsky (1975) also records a food plant belonging to the Apocynaceae for this butterfly.

Polyura pyrrhus sempronius (F.)

Caesalpine ferrea (Family Caesalpiniaceae), *Acacia spectabilis* (Family Mimosaceae). Larvae were noted feeding on these plants during Mar. 1978 at Brisbane.

LYCAENIDAE

Hypochrysops pythias euclides Miskin

Triumfetta rhomboidea (Family Tiliaceae). Alternative host, *Commersonia bartramia* (Family Sterculiaceae). Eleven larvae were collected on 7 Dec. 1977 at Paluma, northern Queensland. When the supply of *T. rhomboidea* leaves was exhausted by 16 Dec. 1977 various alternatives were tried, one of which was accepted. Five larvae died but the remainder fed for eleven days on *C. bartramia* before the original food plant was again offered. However, one larva then refused to accept *T. rhomboidea* and was reared on *C. bartramia* during the remaining three weeks of its larval life.

Larvae rested between the main veins on the undersurface of the leaves, and did not appear to be attended by ants. Two larvae which pupated on 28 Dec. 1977 emerged on 8 and 9 Jan. 1978, and two which pupated on 5 Jan. 1978 emerged on 15 Jan. 1978. They are flattened, pale green in colour with white flecks, a thin creamish dorsal line, and dense marginal hairs. Larval shape is very similar to that of *H. byzos byzos*.

Pupae are pale brown with darker spots. Pupation occurs in the foliage, in a shelter formed by webbing a fold in one leaf, or webbing two leaves together.

Neolucia sulpitius sulpitius (Miskin)

Salicornia quinqueflora (Family Chenopodiaceae). Larvae fed on this host which was collected from tidal flats in the Brisbane area during October and November 1977. The pupal duration was 7 or 8 days.

SPHINGIDAE

Cephonodes kingi (Macleay)

Canthium coprosmoides (Family Rubiaceae). Two larvae were collected on this host at Brisbane and adults emerged about mid January 1976.

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